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## Minden matters

The HHHS board announced on April 20 that the Minden ER would be closing permanently on June 1, causing a response across the region. Pictured from left, Minden Mayor Bob Carter, John Ellis, Coun. Shirley Johannessen, Patrick Porzuczek, Coun. Pam Sayne, Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell, and Richard Bradley. All have been active on social and print media to advocate for the Minden ER. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

## Council speaks out about ER closure

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

Minden Council is not on board for the Minden emergency room closure, scheduled for June 1, at which point all emergency services in the county would be permanently relocated to the Haliburton site.

The news was shared with elected politicians just before it broke publicly via a press release. "Minden Council is going to stand

by the community, and we are going to fight this," Mayor Bob Carter shared with the *Times*, shortly after the news went live.

The closure was a decision made by the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) board, and was announced on April 20. HHHS president and CEO Carolyn Plummer was transparent in stating that the reason for the closure is not funding, rather, it came down entirely to staffing.

Upon hearing the news, the community went into a state of upheaval, with hundreds

of comments circulating around social media sites, and cobbled together Facebook groups aiming to keep the doors of the Minden ER open. The groups amassed thousands of followers within a matter of hours.

"This is ill-advised, ill-timed, and ill-planned," said Carter, "all that 'ill' and we don't even have an emergency room to take care of it," he snapped.

Carter went on to share that if the timing of the closure were changed, he may have a different perspective on the matter. But the

reality of the situation is that elected officials were never consulted about the decision, he said.

Taking to Facebook himself, the Minden Mayor launched a public call to action on April 21. "Minden Hills and Haliburton County were grievously harmed yesterday," he started, "the decision by HHHS to close the Minden Emergency Department on June 1st of this year compromises the health and

see CARTER page 2

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# Carter requests more time on ER decision

from page 1

welfare of our people and diminishes our local economy."

He went on to share that he takes his role as an elected official very seriously, and it is the primary focus for himself and his colleagues to ensure the well-being of the community. Yet, he feels as though the sudden closure was done unilaterally by the HHHS board. "This critical issue was decided by a virtually unelected board acting on its own and shrouded by secrecy," he said.

According to Carter, the county has attempted to have some representation on the board for quite some time, but has been met to no avail. "I am sorry to say that it verges on hubris to even make such a decision without consultation and discussion with elected officials and the public," he said.

Carter concluded his post by delivering three action items: firstly, pushing back the closure date from June 1 to Nov. 1 in an attempt to prepare residents, sustain the cottage community, and prepare infrastructure at the Haliburton emerg site. Secondly, he requested transparent conversations with HHHS in order to best support the community at large. And thirdly, he requested that a member of county council sit on the HHHS board moving forward. He noted that he is certain other steps will become apparent as the transition takes shape, but he highlighted the aforementioned as a starting point.

"Minden Council met on Thursday and we unanimously stand shoulder to shoulder with our community to demand that changes be made," concluded Carter. "It is personal. All of us know at least one person who is walking around our neighborhoods because of the dedicated and available staff in the Minden Emergency Department."

He urged all concerned citizens to reach out to elected officials, or write letters to the editor to have their voices heard.

County council warden Liz Danielson echoed many of Carter's concerns. "There is little doubt that the recent announcement by HHHS that emergency and in-patient



Hundreds of concerned citizens gathered on Apr. 25 at the Minden Community Centre to voice their dismay of the recent announcement regarding the closure of the Minden ER. The Facebook group that was started upon the announcement, titled "Save Minden Ontario Emergency Room" has garnered over 3000 followers. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

care services would be combined as of June 1 has caused waves of anger and anxiety across the county," she said. "Unfortunately, the possibility of temporary closures has been looming over us all for the past year, and we are fortunate that we have managed to continue to keep both facilities open so far." Danielson shared with the *Times* that she understands the financial and staffing issues that HHHS have been

experiencing, but is curious about what the next steps are for roll-out of this plan across the county.

Similar to Carter, Danielson expressed that transparent communications from HHHS would have aided in the reception of the news overall. "While enhanced communications on a number of levels would have been beneficial, we must face this new challenge head on," she said.

## Haliburton to be the only ER in county

by EMILY STONEHOUSE, VIVIAN COLLINGS  
Staff

The Minden emergency room doors will be closing permanently on June 1, 2023.

As of that date, all emergency services will be operating out of the Haliburton Hospital. "This is really related to our health human resource crisis," said Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS). "It is a global health human resource crisis, it's been ongoing for quite some time, and it has meant a shortage of both nursing and medical staff."

Plummer emphasized that this closure is based solely on staffing rather than funding; recruitment is the persistent struggle looming over most rural communities.

She said that throughout this crisis, it's been incredibly difficult to maintain both emergency facilities in the county. "In order to preserve health services and continue to offer high quality health services in this community, we need to consider the well-being of our staff," Plummer shared in a media press conference.

Plummer noted that by creating a space where staff feel supported, she believes that the environment will entice others to join the HHHS team.

While shutting down the emergency location in Minden, HHHS staff demands will be alleviated, but not entirely solved. "Even with this change, we are going to need to continue focusing on hiring new staff," she said, "we will still be

recruiting for nurses and other physicians as well."

Plummer acknowledged that this major shift will be a difficult transition period for the residents of Minden Hills who rely on the emergency department facility, noting that the decision to close was difficult. "We've been talking about this and looking at options for quite some time," she said, "but this was the decision that we needed to make in order to continue to provide health services in the county and to make sure everyone in the county has access to those services."

Plummer described the amalgamated emergency facility as significantly more "robust", and highlighted that the combined staffing would suit the growing needs of the county as a whole.

During the press conference, it was noted that the Minden emergency room actually has a higher intake than that of Haliburton. Plummer clarified that while the numbers may be higher, an emergency department must be attached to in-patient beds. Currently there are 15 in-patient beds at the Haliburton Hospital.

HHHS dove into the feasibility of adding an in-patient component to the Minden Hospital, yet identified that it would take significant renovations and finances, and would entail a lengthy approval process that would likely take years to complete.

Plummer also noted that even if the renovations did take place, they would likely not be able to match what Haliburton currently has for in-patient support.

Beyond the in-patient beds, Plummer was transparent in stating that the Haliburton emergency facility is significantly more central to the county as a whole, which aided in the decision to keep the Haliburton ER doors open.

To accommodate the incoming emergency room volume from Minden emerge, the Haliburton facility will be making some minor alterations to make "more efficient use of the space that we do have, without any major capital investment needed, and no ministry approval needed" said Plummer.

These modifications would include waiting room space, parking, and alterations for patient-incoming flow.

With closing one facility down, it was noted that the Haliburton emerg would be facing significant growth in volume to their site. Yet Plummer reiterated once again that the primary incentive for the closure lies solely with staffing. "If

you add up all the minimum staffing requirements that are needed at the two individual sites, it is more than we need to manage the volume that we have," she said. "But, it's the staff we need to meet minimum staffing requirements. It is going to mean that we don't need as many people overall to fill the gaps."

Yet, even with this conglomeration of the sites, Plummer shared that the facility would require at least five to six additional nurses to get their team up to par.

In terms of the Minden site, Plummer did not have a straightforward answer as to what would happen with the freshly-emptied emergency room. "We are looking at a variety of different options," said Plummer. "We certainly haven't landed on anything yet, but there's a lot of possibilities and we're going to explore those possibilities."

Dr. Norm Bottum is the acting chief of staff for HHHS. He noted that while the news may be surprising to some, the act of consolidating health services isn't something new to the region. "If we go back to the beginning of the Haliburton Health Services, it was actually started as a result of St. Joe's and Peterborough Civic Hospital amalgamating, giving us the opportunity to start our own services," he said.

Bottum clarified that this amalgamation gave Peterborough the opportunity to expand their services when all staff were working from the same site, and the facility became an appealing destination for interested physicians.

He noted that the board has worked incredibly hard to keep both the Haliburton and the Minden sites open, but with the ongoing staffing shortages, emergency departments seem to be shutting down across Ontario. "Things have gotten worse over the last year rather than better, so I think the hospital has been basically backed into a corner to make this decision, but in my mind, it's actually something we anticipated would happen a lot sooner."

Bottum said he believes the amalgamation of emergency rooms will help with recruitment of much-needed staff. A "progressive medical community" with new equipment and the potential for mentoring will be a lure to new doctors.

"Having a consolidated emergency department with hopefully improved staffing and maybe opportunities for im-

# Scott and Schmale weigh in on Minden ER closure

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

MPP Laurie Scott recognizes that the decision to close the Minden emerg effective June 1 is difficult news to process. "Minden is rightfully upset about it," she told the *Times*, "it is a big thing."

With a background in the medical field, Scott shared that while she feels the shock of the closure as it reverberated around the community, she also understands the reasoning behind the decision. "It really is a national and global shortage of healthcare providers," she said.

She alluded to the fact that filling hospitals

with appropriate staffing isn't something that happens instantaneously, and while she believes the wheels are in motion to get staffing up to par, there are a series of hurdles in the way, such as training and housing. "We are trying to break down these barriers," she told the *Times*, "but that's not something that happens overnight."

Scott shared that she is adamantly pushing for the opportunity for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) to acquire the CT scan machine for the Haliburton ER facility. She believes that by adding this new component to the hospital, it will create a more robust facility, which will continue to draw practicing medical staff to the region.

She also believes that by giving local pharmacists a deeper breadth of responsibilities, it could mitigate the wait times that many are concerned about with the amalgamation of the hospitals in the area. "We are building things on a bigger scale," Scott said, "so now, pharmacists can treat the most common ailments."

Scott added that while the decision is a tough one and she feels for the community of Minden, there are opportunities presented with the hand that's been dealt. "It's a tough decision that they had to make, but right now, they just can't safely staff two emergency rooms." She went on to say that she believes that now is a time to focus on the positive,

and work to strengthen the Haliburton facility. "We're all trying to work together as a region for healthcare."

MP Jamie Schmale echoed many of Scott's sentiments. "Obviously this was a very difficult decision for the board to make," he told the *Times*, "but even harder for the community to grasp very shortly."

Schmale noted that growing up in Bobcaygeon, he himself has utilized the services of the Minden emerg more than once. "I really do understand what this loss means to the community," he said.

He shared that he understands the challenges the hospital has had with staffing, but believes this issue is tied to a series of larger local concerns; namely, housing. "Even if we can attract people to work here, they just can't find a place to live." He went on to say - based on his conversations with HHHS - that he understands this to be one of the largest factors that has led to the decision around the closure.

The other major issue he addressed are the requirements needed to practice medicine in the province. "There are over 20,000 foreign nurses in this country, waiting for answers, and this is a major opportunity that is being missed right now."

Schmale believes that the college of physicians and nurses are currently not moving fast enough, and a system should be set up to provide these qualified medical professionals with the accreditations to practice in Ontario. "This is unacceptable," he shared with the *Times*, "especially, because now we are closing emergency rooms because of staffing."

He shared that until some of these "big picture" items are addressed, the future of healthcare in the community is uncertain, but he is particularly concerned about the closure of emerg on the cusp of a major tourism season. "Nobody feels good about this decision," he said.

## More staff needed for ER

from page 2

proved equipment ... so especially for junior doctors to actually be able to work a day shift alongside another emerg doc, there's no rule that says you can only have one emerg doc, and lots of other communities have two," Bottum said.

He added that a struggling medical community likely pushes new doctors to find employment elsewhere. Many doctors are looking for a more active emergency department.

"Having a higher-volume emergency department would be very helpful in retraining," Bottum said.

Plummer addressed HHHS' anticipated \$3 million deficit for this year and said although it will reduce their need to hire agency nurses, money was not a factor in the decision to close Minden emerg. Staff well-being and ensuring efficient ER operations are their main priorities.

HHHS is hoping for a smooth transition, having anticipated the closure of either the

Minden or Haliburton ER for the past 18 months.

"We've done an awful lot of work to prepare for even potential temporary closures of an emergency department. So, lots of planning has already taken place to look at what would need to happen if one emerg was closed while the other stayed open," said Plummer.

When asked about the limited parking at the Haliburton hospital, Plummer said, "We're looking at alternatives there, as well." They plan to have ample signage at the Minden emerg to inform visitors of the change. They will also have a staff member on site initially to redirect anyone attempting to visit the Minden emergency room once it has closed.

"There's going to be a shift in our communication focus to making sure that the community at large is very, very well aware of this change and the date and what to expect, so that come June 1, our hope is that everybody is very, very well-aware," Plummer

said.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic isn't necessarily to blame for the closure, it didn't help already-present issues, said Plummer.

"Certainly the COVID pandemic did exacerbate our resource challenges. It's historically been a challenge to recruit, it's not unique to Haliburton, it's a challenge to recruit health professionals to rural communities in the province, and not limited to even the province."

She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic caused some staff members to leave health care altogether.

Haliburton County Paramedic Services were taken into consideration when deciding which emergency room to keep open.

"Some ambulances now, instead of coming to Minden, are going to be going to Bracebridge and Lindsay," Bottum said, while the rest in the county will head to Haliburton.

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### (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

April 27 – Regular Council Meeting  
May 11 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township CivicWeb Portal at [mindenhillsc.ca/civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx](http://mindenhillsc.ca/civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at [mindenhillsc.ca/civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx](http://mindenhillsc.ca/civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx). Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

### NOTICE: ADOPTION OF 2023 BUDGET

TAKE NOTICE that Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON, to consider adopting the 2023 Estimates By-law related to the 2023 Municipal Budget.

Dated this 20th day of April, 2023.

Greg Bedard, Director of Finance/Treasurer • 705-286-1260 ext. 504 • [gbedard@mindenhillsc.ca](mailto:gbedard@mindenhillsc.ca)

### CULTURAL CENTRE EVENT

Cross Cut, an exhibit by Rob Niezen, will be on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery May 4 -July 1.

The exhibit features 24 linocuts illustrating traditional Ontario folk songs reimagined in a contemporary context. The opening reception with the artist will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 1-3 pm. The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

For more information please look at the events calendar <https://calendar.mindenhillsc.ca/default/Detail/2023-05-04-1000-Cross-Cut-Exhibit-by-Rob-Niezen>.

### SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT MARCH 17, 2023

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage.

### IMPORTANT LANDFILL CARD INFORMATION

Don't recycle your current Landfill Card, blue in colour, valid from May 1, 2021-April 30, 2023, it has been extended to the end of December 2023.

### TENDER OPPORTUNITIES

The following Tender opportunities are available:

- CSD RFT 23-001 Cemetery Care and Maintenance
- CSD RFT 23-002 Boardwalk Restoration

Keep informed of current projects available to bid on by visiting our website at <https://mindenhillsc.ca/bid-opportunities> for a list of available tender opportunities.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING(S) – APRIL 27, 2023

Reminder that you will need a burn permit for daytime burning, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM from April 1st to October 31st, and fireworks permit for the ignition of fireworks. A burn permit is issued for the season. Visit our website at [mindenhillsc.ca](http://mindenhillsc.ca) for current fees. Contact the Fire Department for fireworks permit prior to the ignition of fireworks at 705-286-1202.

### DAYTIME BURNING & FIREWORKS REMINDER

Reminder that you will need a burn permit for daytime burning, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM from April 1st to October 31st, and fireworks permit for the ignition of fireworks. A burn permit is issued for the season. Visit our website at [mindenhillsc.ca](http://mindenhillsc.ca) for current fees. Contact the Fire Department for fireworks permit prior to the ignition of fireworks at 705-286-1202.

# MH property owners could pay about \$50 more in taxes

by JAMES MATTHEWS  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Township of Minden Hills' use of reserve funds has drawn a cautionary warning from the municipality's treasurer.

Greg Bedard, the township's finance director, told council during a meeting to get the 2023 budget on paper April 20 that \$870,000 will be contributed to reserves this year. The township will draw \$2,070,000 from those reserves.

The money will be taken from the landfill and the fire department reserve funds.

"We are drawing heavily from our reserves this year and, over the short term, I just want to highlight for council that it is not sustainable," Bedard said.

He said money from the reserve is being used with good intentions on urgent projects this year.

"However, the continued draw on reserves of this magnitude isn't sustainable," he said.

The final draft of the 2023 municipal operating and capital budget includes a residential tax increase of about 4.7 per cent. It will be presented to the public at an April 27 council meeting.

Bedard said property owners of a home assessed at \$209,000 will have to pay a little less than \$50 more than last year's tax bill.

The reserves' unaudited opening balance is about \$8.7 million. The closing balance will end up at about \$7.5 million.

Some of the big ticket items the reserves will be used to pay for include \$150,000 for a municipal asset management plan;

\$273,000 to replace the fire department's self-contained breathing gear; \$150,000 for the fire department's auto extrication equipment; \$375,000 for some of the work this year at the Scotch Line Landfill; \$428,447 to pay for road resurfacing; and \$310,000 to replace Brady Lake culverts.

Mayor Bob Carter said those are necessary expenditures.

"We have contributions to and from reserves this year," Carter said. "The net usage of those reserves is less than 15 per cent. Our reserves are going into what I think are extraordinary projects that absolutely need to be done."

"This is why we keep reserves. To be able to do them. It's a unique year. Hopefully."

A number of changes were made to the 2023 tax supported capital budget during the last round of deliberations April 6. Using reserve funds is a means to avoid taking on debt, said Bedard.

The self-contained breathing equipment will be covered by the fire reserve.

Replacing culverts at Brady Lake and building an enclosure around the Scotch Line Landfill will both be paid for by using money from the roads capital reserve.

Construction of a Scotch Line Landfill transfer station has been removed from the budget as Bedard said more discussion by council is forthcoming.

Carter said the \$5.5 million price tag to build the transfer station is background information. It's an estimated cost. Included more as a placeholder than anything else.

The road work on Highway 35 to Bingham has a price tag of about \$3.5 million. And

the tender for that work will soon be issued.

"With the changes made to the budget, the only new debt we plan to issue with respect to 2023 capital projects is the Scotch Line and Bobcaygeon Road reconstruction projects," the treasurer said.

Councillor Tammy McKelvey said 2022 tipping fees at the Scotch Line Landfill generated \$275,975. She suggested tipping fees for construction and demolition materials be increased to garner another \$26,000 for municipal coffers.

She had other suggestions on fees that could be bumped up.

Regarding gravel resurfacing, it was planned that 100 millimetres of Grade A gravel would be used on some roads at a cost of more than \$300,000. She suggested using half the Grade A gravel would cut as much as \$80,000 from that aspect of the work.

Mike Timmins, the public works director, said that reduction would be only about two inches of gravel on the thoroughfare. That would affect the road's longevity.

"You're certainly going to affect the longevity and the life (of the road)," Timmins said. "I don't know that I would recommend dropping that down. It's a pretty thin layer of gravel and it'll certainly be harder to work with."

She questioned if holding back on the gravel on a short piece like Scotts Dam Road and others less than a kilometre would be so detrimental.

"I'm only trying to bring this (tax) levy

down because the taxpayers are not going to be happy with something (a tax increase) over five per cent, in my opinion," McKelvey said.

Coun. Pam Sayne said there's savings to be had in two inches of gravel as opposed to four inches on a road. But there's a chance that road will have to be revisited next year or the next to bring it up to standards.

"I'm not happy with the percentage increase, but there's lots of reasons for it," Sayne said.

Carter said, basically, that the specifications for roads should be left to professionals.

"I'm extremely reticent to have council direct the roads department on how they should do their job," he said.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said the majority of complaints received at town hall is regarding road conditions. As such, road work shouldn't be short-changed. Municipal roads have been neglected in the past because of budgetary constraints, she said.

"Nobody likes swallowing the 5.4 per cent (possible tax increase), but if that means having our roads being brought back to where they should be, I will support it," Schell said.

Carter said it's about time council inks a 2023 municipal capital and operating budget. The process is getting long in the tooth. Council and staff have contributed to a lot of work toward a spending plan.

"I think we're going way too far into the year," he said. "We need to get this done. ... We're never going to make it perfect."

## Opioid crisis hits region hard

by JAMES MATTHEWS  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Health Unit was in the top half of all provincial units significantly affected by the opioid crisis before the COVID-19 pandemic.

And opioid overdose deaths have increased during the pandemic, said Dr. Natalie Bocking, the health unit's chief medical officer and CEO.

She presented information to health board members April 20 that demonstrated the impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on opioid recreational user deaths.

The effects of the drug crisis fluctuates over time, she said.

"We do have data that in 2022 ... the rate in HKPR actually increased higher, and we were in the top 10 of health units in terms of our experience with opioid overdose deaths," Bocking said.

"We are impacted, perhaps not equally as some other health units, but absolutely impacted by this provincial crisis."

Most recently, the HKPR health unit issued an opioid overdose alert for the region April 14. An increase was reported in City of Kawartha Lakes and in Northumberland County over the preceding three days.

"The increase in overdoses this week is troubling. We are issuing an opioid overdose alert to warn the community to take immediate precautions," Dorothea Service, the units' harm reduction program manager, said at the time.

"We know that the drug supply in Ontario is contaminated with highly potent opioids, benzodiazepines, and xylazine, that may impact the current drug poisoning crisis in our area."

What's disturbing is that xylazine is a vet-

erinary sedative. What's more disturbing is that naloxone doesn't reverse the effects of those substances.

Bocking said hospital visits by people with signs of opioid overdose and the number of overdose deaths began to increase in the region in 2018.

"The number of (visits) to Emergency Departments for overdose related presentations has increased dramatically," she said.

For Haliburton County, hospitals saw increased visits between 2018 with seven ER visits to 2022 when there were 25 visits. The most significant jump happened mid-pandemic with 27 visits in 2021.

So far this year, there's been one ER visit by somebody presenting signs of opioid overdose symptoms.

Actually, according to data Bocking presented April 20, hospital visits increased in the health unit's region as a whole the most in 2021.

"We know the pandemic has made this crisis worse," Bocking said. "There were more deaths related to opioid overdose throughout the pandemic."

"But we know that prior to the pandemic we were still seeing a higher number of Emergency Department visits as well."

The health unit has a needle exchange program, and it provides clean needles and other sterile equipment for inhalation and the other means by which people use substances.

The number of needles that has been distributed by the health unit has remained relatively stable over about the last two years. But the supplies that've been given for inhalation have dramatically increased, she said.

"This is a trend that's also been seen provincially," Bocking said. "The use of substances by inhalation is contributing more and more to deaths from overdoses."

## HHHS Brings Together Emergency Services at Haliburton Site

**As of June 1, 2023, emergency services will no longer be available at the HHHS Minden site.**

**Minden and the surrounding community will be able to access emergency services at the Haliburton site.**

**Visit [www.hhhs.ca](http://www.hhhs.ca) for more information.**



Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

# Public health unit touts importance of vaccines

by JAMES MATTHEWS  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Less than half of the students required to update their vaccine status have complied with public health requests.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health and CEO at Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit, described to board members April 20 the effort to get more students vaccinated.

Second letters were issued in March to guardians of students not in compliance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act.

Bocking said the first letter went out to about 3,600 students and guardians. That yielded about a 48 per cent compliance rate.

"People actually updating their records or receiving their vaccinations that were overdue," she said. "That's a better return rate than in previous years."

"So that's great, but that still meant there were about 1,800 letters that were sent out at the end of March."

The public health unit doesn't plan to suspend students for non-compliance this year, she said.

"Some health units have," she said. "Some health units haven't."

They opted to try to get students from more school grades than usual to catch up with the necessary vaccines. So they sent the second letters as a further reminder.

"But we certainly intend to do full enforcement starting next year," Bocking said.

On another vaccination front, the doctor said fewer people have taken advantage of the latest COVID-19 booster jab.

There's a different dynamic to COVID-19

than during the rest of the pandemic where high peaks of infections were experienced. Bocking said infections now are of a steady higher rate than what they'd like to see.

"The ups and downs are not as much, which also means the downs are not as much," she said. "So there continues to be low to moderate hospital admissions in the community."

As many as 18 deaths and 74 hospital admissions in the region that were attributed to the coronavirus so far in 2023.

"This is still not influenza that we're talking about," Bocking said. "It's still not a benign cold, but I think we're as a society learning to manage in a way that we can move forward and try and minimize the harms as-

sociated with the virus."

The province has launched the spring COVID-19 booster vaccine campaign. But, she said, there hasn't been much fanfare or media attention this go-around. She acknowledged that the health unit hasn't taken out as many newspaper and radio advertisements as previous campaigns.

"It is a targeted booster campaign for those at highest risk," she said. "So individuals over the age of 65, individuals with other medical conditions that put them at higher risk of a severe illness."

The region saw lackluster participation in the fall booster campaign, and there's been low participation in this spring outing. She

anticipates a wider campaign in the fall that will make boosters available to people outside the over-65 age group.

"But we don't have a crystal ball, so we'll have to wait until closer to that time to know for sure what the recommendations are based on how the virus continues to evolve," she said.

The current vaccines target the omicron variants specifically.

"The challenge with the omicron variants is they continue to evolve," Bocking said. "So they're not a perfect match. They're not as good as the influenza vaccine at being able to match the strain that's circulating, just because the COVID virus mutates so quickly."

## Exploring art

Visitors take in the "I Made It" exhibition at Fleming College last Saturday. From glassblowing and jewelry making to photography and ceramics, students had the chance to showcase their creations. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Times



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## Words

**W**E SEE them all day every day. They can be big, small, fleeting, or significant.

Words can make a difference. Last week, I was given the opportunity to sit in on a presentation from the genealogy society.

The presenting speaker this month was none other than Jack Brezina, who highlighted the history of the *Minden Times* from its early conception to present day.

Brezina was the owner, publisher, editor, and writer for the *Times* for over 22 years. He's seen the community through its highs and lows; and I'm not just talking about the Gull River water levels over the decades.

He shared about one particular instance where there was a white supremacy rally scheduled for the Minden Fairgrounds in 1989. He wasn't seeing eye to eye with the rally organizers. He needed to find a way to fight back. To stand his ground. To represent the people of the community. So he used words.

And not many words. Only one in particular: yes.

Three simple letters, which he printed in a bold red font, and added on page six of the *Minden Times* on June 6, 1989. At the bottom of the page, in fine print, he added "As a citizen of Canada and a member of this community, I believe in equality of all individuals regardless of race, colour creed, or ethnic origin."

Yes. We believe in that. In those words.

The red letters strewn through the windows of Minden were enough to run the supremacists out of town. It made national news. The pen is mightier than the sword.

This past week, a single headline



**EMILY STONEHOUSE**  
Editor

not take my role as editor lightly. The content we share, the way we choose to share it, and the tone in which it is shared, is significant.

While managing committees, boards, and politicians are the spine of any community, the newspaper is the heart. We will always share our story, which will exclusively be by the people, for the people.

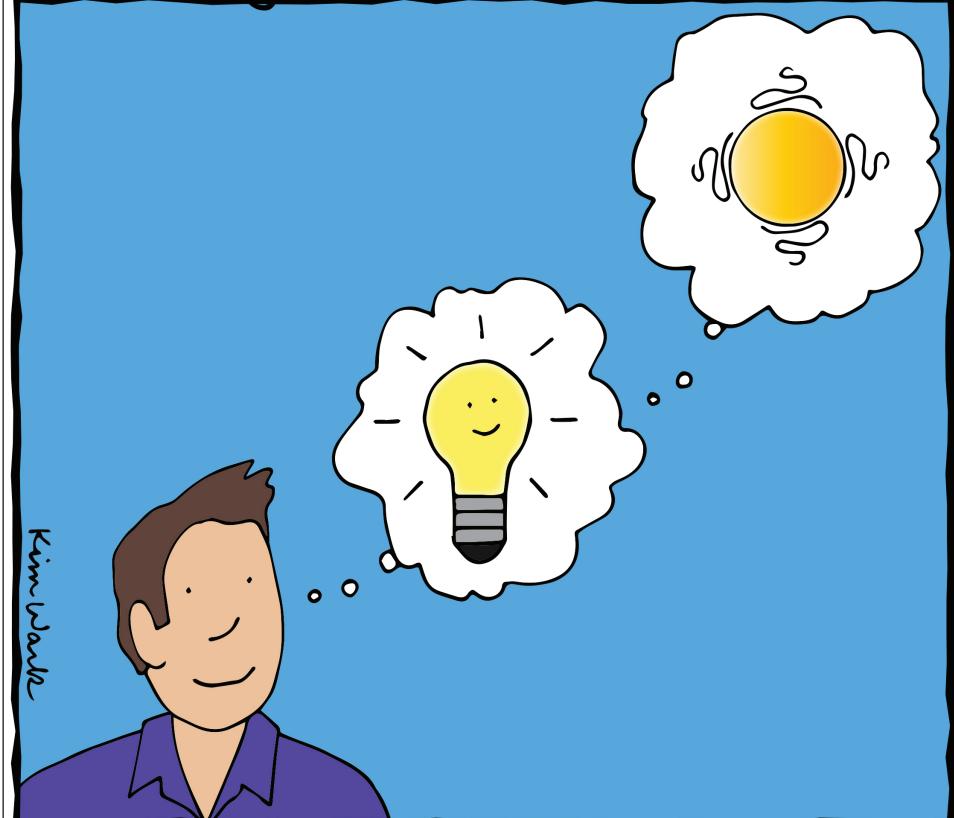
If you want to make change, if you want to see change, if you want to be the change, then I encourage you to share your words with your community. We will be running any and all letters to the editor, and you can send them to [emily@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:emily@haliburtonpress.com)

Your voice matters.  
Your thoughts matter.  
Your words matter.

## IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

### Kwarky



A lightbulb's lightbulb moment.

## Are turkeys smart?

I AM WRITING this on the eve of our wild turkey season in response to a question that we turkey hunters are frequently asked. That question is, "Are wild turkeys as smart as hunters say they are?"

This is a complicated question.

I mean characterizing all wild turkeys as stupid is unfair to the ones who don't wear MAGA hats. On the other hand, not all wild turkeys are geniuses either.

In my experience, there are two kinds of wild turkeys – the smart bird, the crafty old bird, and the incredibly stupid bird. Each of them is better at math than me.

How you characterize a wild turkey often depends on the bird, and more particularly on the outcome of your encounter with that bird.

For instance, any wild turkey that makes a fool of a hunter is immediately labelled "a smart bird."

If that bird catches you moving, sniffling, or looking the other way, or just stands behind a tree for the whole time it is in gun range, it is considered to be "smart" and perhaps even unhuntable.

You can see a lot of these at birdfeeders in most small towns.

If that same bird, however, were to hear your call and immediately run off towards safety, then it is an "incredibly stupid" bird. To a non-hunter, this might seem counterintuitive. In fact, most people would probably think that the bird was smart or even crafty to hear an artificial call and run away. But we turkey hunters know that what we've encountered is a bird that is actually so incredibly stupid that it didn't understand how good our calling was. These incredibly stupid birds are the ones most non-hunters

close up see all the time.

Generally speaking, a crafty old bird is what we hunters prefer. That's because they are the only kind a hunter harvests. If you doubt that, just ask any successful wild turkey hunter to retell the story of his or her epic hunt – provided you have an hour or so to spare.

He will immediately describe a bird that would have made Stephen Hawking look like a C-plus student – one that only the most skilled of hunters could outwit. I'm talking about a crafty old bird that understands his guzzles. As in, five guzzles 10 twice and so forth. The kind of student the teacher brings an apple to.

If the story is to be believed, outsmarting this turkey requires an advanced degree in ornithology. I mean we are talking about a bird that reads Dostoevsky while on the roost. Hunting this bird and winning is akin to playing chess with a grandmaster. You must think three moves ahead.

Sure, the hunter who bags this bird will conveniently forget to mention that it fell in love with his rubber turkey decoy. Or that it was seen the day before pecking at its own reflection.

Instead, the hunter will suggest that the turkey "knew something was wrong" but the set up and calling were too good for it to resist. He or she will then detail all the things they did flawlessly, including waking up at just the right time. They will also take credit for calling just the right amount and knowing exactly when to move. (When your legs cramp up.)

And, in the end, they will proudly tell you they are smarter than a bird. Ninety percent of the time that's true. As for the other 20 per cent? Well, that's debatable.



**STEVE GALEA**  
Beyond 35

## IN OTHER WORDS

*Columns and Letters to the Editor*

# COVID on the brain

**I**'M CERTAIN that the COVID virus has infected peoples' brains, pulling them down to new levels of meanness and stupidity.

I don't have any medical evidence to support that. My certainty is based just on what I have been observing.

Look around. Stabbings on the Toronto transit system, inexplicable shootings in the U.S.

Politicians, and the bureaucrats who pull their strings, saying and doing dumb things.

Take our Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland's silly attempt to relate federal government overspending to her own household budget. She told Canadians she cancelled her kids' Disney+ channel to save money and the same approach should be taken to federal spending.

Freeland presumably intended to show that managing Ottawa's \$430-billion budget is the same as managing a household budget. Her attempt spurred outrage across the country with one citizen saying it was like telling young couple that if they gave up avocado toast they could afford to buy a house.

Then a while back we had Ontario Premier Doug Ford saying housing developers should be allowed to hire their own building inspectors to ensure that buildings meet government standards. Do we really want building inspectors to be paid and controlled by

the builders?

All that might be the strained-brain thinking we have come to expect in politics. The really scary stuff is the violence that has occurred since the COVID outbreak three years ago.

Polling suggests that a majority of Canadians believe that community violence has increased with COVID. Many say COVID created a deterioration in mental health, which has made people less socially responsible and more violent.

Certainly the recent shootings of Americans who rang a wrong doorbell or pulled into a wrong driveway indicate new levels of insanity not often seen before COVID's arrival.

The best illustration of a society gone stupid and mean-spirited is the case of a nine-year-old California girl and her goat.

Last year the girl's mother bought a young goat for her daughter to participate in a 4-H youth club project. The idea was for the girl to raise the goat and show it at a district fair.

Well, the girl and the goat, named Cedar, became close. The girl took Cedar for walks like a pet dog. She petted him and he nuzzled her.

Fair time arrived and Cedar was there to be shown as the girl's 4-H project. However, when the fair ended the girl was told that displayed animals were to be slaughtered for their meat.

That news upset the girl, who embraced Cedar and began crying. Her mother was upset as well, so put the goat in her car and drove him to a hiding place a couple of hundred miles away.

The fair considered this theft of a goat, because under the rules of the show it had become their property. They had two sheriff's officers find the hiding place, drive the hundreds of miles return trip and bring the goat back.

Cedar was slaughtered and his meat sold at auction. The winning bid was \$902 (\$63 of which went to the fair) from a Republican state senator.

When the girl heard of Cedar's demise she reportedly threw herself under her bed covers and sobbed uncontrollably.

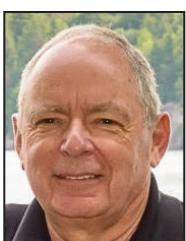
Fair executives said the idea of having youth show animals at a fair is to teach them responsibility and learn about the process and effort it takes to raise meat.

That sounds reasonable, but by enforcing the rule they caused the girl and her family a lot of grief, the sheriff's department wasted time and money at taxpayers' expense, plus an avalanche of bad publicity for themselves and 4-H clubs.

The fair also reinforced the short-sighted view that the only reason farm animals exist is to make money for the meat industry.

All the heartache and bad publicity could have been avoided by ignoring the slaughter rule and letting the little girl quietly take her pet goat home. Showing a little understanding and sympathy would not have damaged efforts to teach youth about raising farm animals.

All the effort and money spent to bring Cedar to slaughter could have been better used in helping the farmed meat industry to see animals as something more than a steak on a butcher's block.



**JIM POLING SR.**

*From Shaman's Rock*

### letters to the editor

## Minden ER closure

### To the Editor,

I would like to add my name to the long list of those expressing extreme concern regarding the announcement by the non-elected Board, that the Minden Emergency Department in Minden is to be closed. Recently, I had the need to visit this facility and within 10 minutes of checking in, I was hooked up to the Electro Cardiogram machine and blood taken. One half hour passed and I was seen by the doctor and diagnosed. This will not happen if all individuals requiring emergency care will be funnelled into one Emergency

Department centred in Haliburton. Who made this decision – a non-elected volunteer board with only one Minden resident on it. The Minden emergency department by far, has had over the years, more patients than Haliburton. How does the closure of Minden make sense?

As I understand it, no political consultation took place. The lack of transparency and communication is unforgivable.

**Gary Stoner,  
Minden**

### To the Editor,

"Transparency" is a term that is widely used in the 21st century. In the present situation where a decision was made to close the Minden Hospital, transparency was not evident at all. The decision seemingly was made behind closed doors by people who were not elected to serve anyone. Why does this Board not have representation from the County Council? The people directly affected by this decision and the Municipal Council were as I understand it, kept completely in the dark and only informed when it was a done deal. In my opinion and that of many people including the Council feel it is a very poor and ill-conceived decision. If it was necessary to make changes, why were the people not brought into the debate and publicly discussed where the reasons would be put forth and a community decision made? It was a political decision. The reasons given do not pass the litmus test regardless of how you slice it.

Many people will be affected and unfortunately lives will be lost. Highway 35 is the central thoroughfare for the County. Now ambulances will have to find their way to the Haliburton Hospital taking another half hour to get a patient to the hospital. When there is an emergency, time is a major factor and minutes do count.

The Emergency Room at the Minden Hospital is always busy and is very efficient. The Doctors are all qualified emergency room doctors. The nursing staff is also comprised with ER people. I realize that there is a shortage of nurses and we can lay the blame for that at the doorstep of Doug Ford who should be paying nurses what they deserve not what he thinks they are worth.

People come from as far away as Lindsay to receive treatment. Also, it is a known fact that the Minden site is much busier than Haliburton. The waiting room at Haliburton is rather small and in no way can accommodate the influx of patients that will be coming there, at least double from what comes now. The parking lot leaves a lot to be desired. Will all of these deficiencies be improved in three weeks? I doubt it. Will the doctors who serve the Minden Site automatically move to the Haliburton Site? Again, very unlikely. How many ER doctors will there be at the Haliburton Site?

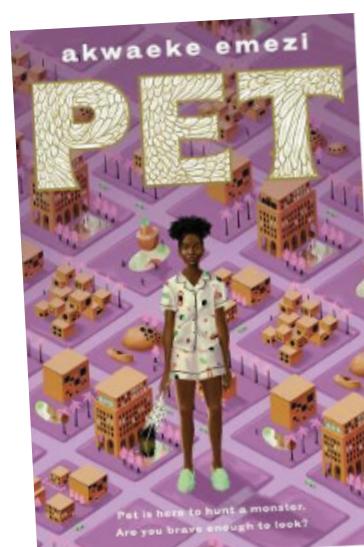
Over the years my wife and I have had to take advantage of the services at Minden and if not for the fact that the hospital was close, I am certain that we wouldn't be here today. A good example of this was when I had my last heart attack. Within minutes the doctor had received information from three hospitals where I had previously had heart operations and made his decision. I was quickly transferred to Peterborough and in a very short time found myself on the operating table having major surgery. I have no faith that would have happened in Haliburton.

Over the years, my wife and I have given generously to the HHHS because we felt that our local hospital was very important. Now, that it will be closed we will no longer be making donations. The Minden Hospital needs to be kept open. Closing it will adversely affect the lives of many people, the local economy and most importantly it will cost lives.

**Gareth and Catherine Kellett,  
Minden**

**More letters on page 8**

### HCPL's Book of the Week



In the city of Lucille, children are taught that society is safe, and monsters no longer exist. Teenager Jam and her best friend Redemption have never had reason to question this – until Jam gets a drop of blood on one of her mother's paintings, and a creature emerges from the canvas that is made of claws and colour and horns. This creature, Pet, has come to hunt a monster. In the face of her family's and her community's resistance, Jam must decide if she will trust the horrifying truths that Pet reveals, and what she is willing to sacrifice to protect the people she loves. Emezi's prose is beautiful and vivid, and the blurring of myth and magic with the everyday is handled expertly. Never heavy-handed, this story takes a nuanced look at how to confront trauma when the world is in denial.

*Pet* by Akwaeke Emezi is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

**letters to the editor**

# Minden ER closure

**To the Editor,**

As a life long resident of Haliburton who lives at the southern end of our County, I protest this decision. **Where was the community consultation?**

As former owners of one of the longest established tourist establishments in the region, we know the value of the Minden Emergency Room to both countless numbers of guests and summer visitors, as well as thousands of seasonal and year-around residents.

As long time supporters, and donors to the HHHS, we are both saddened and outraged by the judgment, lack of consultation, and timing of those who are supposed to protect and serve the general well-being of the total Haliburton County community.

Your communication statement is mis-leading. Obviously, if Hyland Crest residents must travel by ambulance to Haliburton village, it will NOT operate "as it always has." As well,

the arrangements with the two current ER staffs are not the same, and there will be huge associated costs that must be borne by local taxpayers.

Why the secrecy in facing up to the problems, and not allowing County and Municipal representatives, as well as ordinary citizens to have input? You have certainly given reason to question both the judgment and competency of your decision makers.

I doubt that in my three quarters of a century living here, and for three generations of my family providing employment to others and contributing to the County economy, I have ever seen such a reckless, ill-advised and non-consultative process and decision.

**Russ and Dottie Wunker,  
Miner's Bay**

less fortunate societal members.

I have not seen or heard anything about an expansion to our emergency services people and equipment. Delivering to Haliburton from the Minden, Carnarvon and surrounding areas will obviously take longer and require additional equipment.

Who thought of this elimination of service? What public input was obtained?

I have supported the HHHS believing they were there to support all community residents. I am very disappointed by this decision and believe a great deal more input should have been sought out and public concerns taken into consideration.

**Don Geall,  
Minden**

**To the Editor,**

Today I learned from an email dated yesterday that on June the first Minden Hospital will be closed. This is unacceptable in my mind!!

I moved to Minden 20 years ago (2002) because it was a small quiet town but it had its own medical facility in the hospital. This was very important to my family as we are aging and part of aging means we'll require more attention.

Over the past year I have volunteered as a Big Brother, Kid Kompanion, Community Care Driver and with community support service for meal delivery and as a driver.

I have driven many seniors to their appointments at the hospital at their doctors or their dentist. The removal of Minden hospital will cause increased anxiety and costs for our elderly and

**To the Editor,**

Upon hearing the news Friday morning April 21 of the Minden Emergency Department closing, I was saddened, upset and disappointed. As long as there has been a hospital in Minden, there has been an emergency department. Our population is growing by leaps and bounds and the wait times already can be lengthy and that's with two emergency departments. Much of our growth is seniors and may need this assistance at one time or another. There will, I'm afraid, be disastrous repercussions.

Some folks near Minden experiencing symp-

toms of any kind may ignore them rather than travel a farther distance. This too could lead to dire consequences.

Also we are in cottage country causing more stress on the hospitals. This is all so sad!

I know the medical profession is overworked and tired. Is there any way the general public can help as volunteers in some aspect? We must hope and pray that this matter might be given more consideration and some other course taken.

**Janice Carr,  
Minden**

issues.

But that can change in a heartbeat. We are very concerned about the slated closure of the Minden Hospital ER and request that this decision be reversed for the sake of all the residents, campers and visitors to the area.

Find the funding and the staff to keep the ER open. PLEASE!!

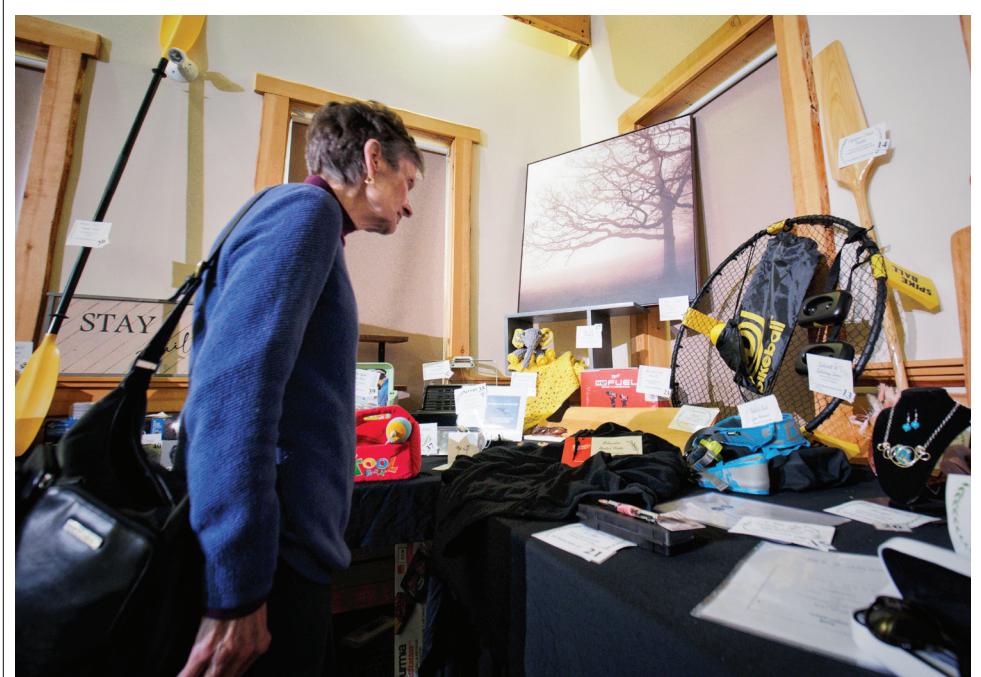
**Anne & William Hepburn,  
North York & Minden**



## Going once, going twice, sold!

On Sat., April 22, Camp Medeba hosted their annual "Not-so-silent" auction Saturday evening in an effort to raise money for the camp. The auction was held both online and in person where people were able to bid on a variety of products and services generously donated by local businesses.

/ADAM FRISK special to the Times

**To the Editor,**

I'm sure you are getting a lot of letters regarding the Minden hospital closure. I'm going to add to the pile, this is an outrage! The population has grown 4 times (at least) since I was a teenager and just keeps growing. I realize there are so many factors: the Dr. shortage, nursing shortage, on and on. Our healthcare is in pretty bad shape, being in a rural community, we **need** our emergency departments, Haliburton can't handle everyone.

Even the wait now in Minden can be hours, what are we supposed to do, if we have failing hearts, accidents, etc... There will be deaths that can be not justified in these closings. As a lot of people here are in that 50-60 year range and older population (our parents) I don't want to see this happen. Please to the powers that be HELP US!!

**Karen Rivard,  
Minden**

**To the Editor,**

The closing of the county's busiest emergency department in Minden in favor of the one in Haliburton reduces services to the greatest density of the population in the area and puts more lives at risk. The Minden emergency department has always been the busiest, being located along the highway 35 corridor it is accessible to a greater number of people, both permanent and seasonal. The Haliburton site "centrally" located in Haliburton County does not equate to serving the greatest concentration of the population. The Minden emergency department services extend outside of just Haliburton County and includes

Kinmount, Norland and Coboconk to name a few. The argument that the emergency department should be where the hospital beds are located lacks merit when the majority of acute cases presenting in the emergency department in both Minden and Haliburton are shipped to secondary and tertiary hospitals, mainly Lindsay, Peterborough and Toronto. The shortest distance and time to those facilities is from the Minden site. This decision to close the Minden emergency department makes no sense and needs to be revisited.

**Paul Heffer,  
Minden**

**To the Editor,**

The closure of the Minden ER is truly heartbreaking! This emerg and the beyond fantastic team has been the necessary backbone for my family and our two active boys growing up. For over 20 years this has been our go-to that has

never let us down. Sad to hear that our system is now letting them down and the community that depends on them!

**Irene Heaven,  
Minden**

# Caregiving 2 – Dementia widow

I'VE ALWAYS acknowledged that my experience of caregiving was the proverbial stroll in the park relative to the experience of others. But because of that, I felt an obligation to excavate and extricate on behalf of my comrades, the army I've been honorably (I hope) discharged from. In this column I'm referencing a not-yet-published book, my memoir.

The army is a big one, primarily female, and the caregiving roles are gendered. My focus is on spousal caregiving for a husband who is slipping into dementia, because that is my experience, which came after caring for that same husband when he was being treated for cancer. They are different experiences. Why? Because the person with cancer is recognizable as the person you married and loved; the person with dementia, by definition, is becoming something other than what he was. A hyperactive educator named Teepa Snow, a diminutive woman with an irreverent stand-up comedian style delivered in a delightful Cincinnati accent (she's all over YouTube – check her out), re-arranged my brain when she defined dementia, not by its symptoms, but by its impact on character. When the person is becoming something other than what he was, she said, suspect dementia, long before The Test will allow a diagnosis. (I recognize that other conditions also make people other than what they 'normally' were – mental illness, addiction, brain malfunctions – and I think there are parallels in managing their

care.)

Caregiving of any type requires that the caregiver subjugate themselves to the needs of the person for whom they are caring. And, if it's done well, the cared-for is relatively unaware of the extent and maybe nature of the subsidy. Their sense of personhood is optimized within the circumstances; they are enabled to be as much of who they

are as possible, for free, without the price tag of gratitude. Of course there is a price tag, it's undeniable there is a price tag, but there is a sense that it is being disregarded. 'For you, this is free; it's on the house.'

And that is what differentiates informal caregiving, the unpaid sort, from paid caregiving – which also has its place and is invaluable when well done. But it's not the same

thing, a fact the medical system tends to overlook, because conflation is convenient, and because science tends not to be holistic or humanistic. The upside of informal caregiving, that the caregiver is being a person rather than doing a job, is also its downside, because the caregiver as a person becomes invisible. Particularly with dementia, where the malfunctions that the caregiver is identifying and compensating for are invisible, the filling in of the mental gaps, if it's deftly done, also becomes invisible.

My cared-for dementia person used to refer to me, lovingly, gratefully, humorously, with well-concealed desperation, as his external hard drive. Which made sense when it referred to lapses in recalling detail; we all,

as our brains age, depend on group think to remind us of words or names or time frames gone missing. But it disregards the hard and never-ending work of figuring out what is missing before it becomes an existential crisis, a threat to sense of being. (In this way similar to parenting, except that at that stage of life, you are building a sense of self in the other, whereas in dementia, you are buoying the sense of self – in choppy, unpredictable water with strong under-currents.)

My image of caregiving was of my self being sucked into the gaps of his self as they appeared (and then disappeared briefly, inexplicably, leaving you an interloper in occupied territory, doubting your assessment of his functioning – maybe there's more/different happenings in his brain than I thought). I was vastly relieved when I discovered the language of trees, the mycorrhizal system through which the energy of the dying tree is re-distributed through the subterranean system of roots and fungi to its neighbouring community. It's a comforting

alternate image when you can see death as a natural stage of life.

I gave a name to my caregiving job, differentiating what I did from who I was (a good plan in life generally), which allowed me to take care (with minimal guilt) of the 'who' while doing the 'what'. I gave away the name of wife when I acknowledged that the reciprocity that had characterized our spousal relationship was no longer possible, stopped trying to extract what was no longer available, accepted his vulnerability and terror – maybe too strong a word – of disappearing into nothingness. And created a new role called Dementia Widow, a woman who is married to a man who is no longer the man she married, who has an honorable job to do, and whose task is to do it to the best of her ability for as long as necessary.

That worked for me. We'll talk about other perspectives – Gordon Pinsent in *Away from Me* and Elizabeth Hay in *All Things Consoled* – another time.



**FAY MARTIN**  
*Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder*

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Where: Archie Stouffer Elementary and Haliburton High  
Local volunteers and Basketball Canada have teamed up to bring a curriculum-based youth basketball program to the county! Visit [www.haliburtonbasketball.com](http://www.haliburtonbasketball.com) for information.

#### First Annual Apple Blossom Tour

When: A map will be created after data collection, for tours to be taken at your leisure  
Where: Multiple locations in Haliburton County  
Apple tree owners, would you like to participate in the first annual Haliburton County apple blossom tour? Apple Tree Identification Project (ATIP) inspired by U-Links, is collecting information on Haliburton County apple orchards, old and new, species and locations. If you have apple trees on your property and would like to be included on the location tour map, ask questions, or just provide information or photos please contact [appletreshaliburton@gmail.com](mailto:appletreshaliburton@gmail.com).

#### The Western Chorus Frog

#### Learn and Listen

When: April 27, 7 p.m.  
Admission Free/Donations Welcome  
Where: Minden Cultural Centre  
Join local field naturalist Ed Poropat as he takes us on a journey through the lifecycle of these tiny amphibians, with some insights as to why they seem to be disappearing from our landscape. A brief indoor presentation followed by a short car ride to a location where chorus frogs are known to call. Register at [www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca](http://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca) or call 705-457-3700

#### Razzamataz Kids' Shows!

presents The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito  
When: Sunday, Apr. 30, 2 p.m.  
Where: The Northern Lights Theatre, 5358 Haliburton County Rd 21,  
Join Mary Jane on her journey as she finds her voice through song and makes new friends. A whimsy and wise humour of this engaging production by Carousel Players (ON).  
[www.razzamataz.ca](http://www.razzamataz.ca)

#### Let's Get Rolling Social

When: Sunday Apr. 30 1 TO 3 p.m.  
Where: Stanhope Firefighters Hall, 1123 North Shore Rd, Algonquin Highlands.  
The Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club invites you to bring a travel mug and enjoy some coffee/tea and baked goods as you meet some club members and learn about this season's group rides, events and trips. Win a door prize, order a club jersey, and visit tables from Algonquin Outfitters and Circles Turning Circles. [haliburtonrealeasyryders@gmail.com](mailto:haliburtonrealeasyryders@gmail.com) [www.haliburtonrealeasyryders.com](http://www.haliburtonrealeasyryders.com)

#### The Highland Yard: Early Bird Registration

When: Monday May 1st  
Where: Virtual, see details below  
Early bird registration opens on May 1 for the Highland Yard. The historic race will be returning, in-person, on Sunday Aug. 6 with a 2k, 5k, and 10k run. For additional race information and to register with early bird pricing please visit [highlandyard.ca](http://highlandyard.ca).

#### Minden Legion Branch 636

**Lunch - Monday to Friday**  
**Monday:** Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.  
**Tuesday:** Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.  
**Thursday:** Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.  
**Every other Friday:** Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.  
**Friday** Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.  
**Every other Friday** Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.  
**Saturday** All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m. Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541  
**Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.**



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OHC's referendum against public health care privatization was launched across the province on Tuesday, April 18. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

## Ontario Health Coalition to host referendum

by VIVIAN COLLINGS  
Times Staff

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Long Term Care Coalition are printing ballots and putting together voting boxes in preparation for a province-wide Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) referendum to stop health care privatization on Friday, May 26 and Saturday, May 27.

The question on the ballot will read, "Do you want our public hospital services to be privatized to for-profit hospitals and clinics?"

All residents aged 16 or older can vote at one of the 27 locations in the county.

"It's going to be an amazing day. Almost every little town in the county will be represented," said HHLTC Coalition member Bonnie Roe during the launch of the referendum on Tuesday, April 18. "The whole idea is to have a vote to send a message to the Ford government that people want to see an end to privatization of Ontario health care."

A press release from the OHC said the tran-

sition from public to private health care is particularly devastating for surgeries. Some hospitals in Ontario have already had to shut down surgical units due to lack of funding and staff.

"Surgeries, MRIs and CTs are core public hospital services ... The loss of these surgeries – and the staff and funding that go with them – would be devastating to all local public hospitals and would gut the services that remain in many of the medium and small hospitals," said the release.

Haliburton Highlands is one of 60 Long Term Care Coalitions in Ontario.

Voting locations will be at various businesses and organizations across the county with volunteers at each station.

"We're really getting the support of the community, so we're really pleased," Roe said. Those interested in volunteering can email Roe: bonnieroel08@gmail.com.

For more information, visit [www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/](http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/).

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## Region's top doc says summer camp inspections have started

by JAMES MATTHEWS  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It may only be spring yet, but public health officials are looking ahead to summer environmental health concerns.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health and CEO at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) Public Health Unit, said work has started to brace for the various summer season health concerns.

She told health board members April 20 that inspections of summer camps have started and preparations are being made for tick dragging in certain areas for Lyme disease. The health unit has also drawn attention to migrating birds and the potential spread of avian flu.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Public Health Agency of Canada confirmed April 4 that a domestic dog in Oshawa tested positive for highly pathogenic avian

influenza.

Bocking said a number of wild bird species, domestic chickens, and wild turkeys have been infected.

She said there hasn't been an infected domestic chickens in the HKPR region.

"But there's a number of other jurisdictions in Ontario that have," she said.

According to the release, the dog was found to have been infected with avian flu after chewing on a wild goose. The dog died after developing clinical signs.

Avian influenza, a type A influenza virus, is a contagious viral infection that can affect all species of birds and can sometimes infect mammals.

There's been a handful of human infections globally.

"But we know that the more a virus circulates, the more opportunity there is for it to mutate and potentially then become a strain that can infect humans more easily," Bocking said.



## Play ball!

The Archie Stouffer Elementary School Girls Basketball team played JDH on April 24 in their annual tournament. JDH and ASES started the tournament playing against each other in the first round robin game, and ended the day battling each other in the finals, with JDH winning 15-10. /Photo submitted



# Cswb plan aims to help county reach 'ideal state'

by VIVIAN COLLINGS  
Times Staff

In a perfect world, Haliburton County wouldn't have housing shortages and homelessness, poverty, mental health issues, substance use and addiction, and a health care system in distress, but unfortunately, those are the key issues highlighted in our new Community Safety and Well-Being (Cswb) Plan.

"We are all proud of where we live, but there are friends and neighbours struggling in our community due to some of the key factors that contribute to poor community safety and well-being," Sue Tiffin, the county's new Cswb Plan coordinator, said to county council on March 22.

The plan, a living document, aims to address those issues. It is a tool to be used as guidance to work with the county's key service providers, measure progress, support individuals seeking information and services, and to keep engaging with the community to adapt and align with its needs.

Strategy Corp, a consulting service, was hired to take on the task.

"Their work included consulting with area service providers, other interested parties and members of the public on key risks and service gaps; analyzing community risk factors and identifying evidence-based responses and strategies to gaps and risks and integrating all feedback into a full draft plan," Tiffin said.

The Safer Ontario Act mandated each municipality in the province to adopt a Cswb Plan in 2019.

For Dysart et al, Highlands East, Minden Hills, and Algonquin Highlands, the authority to develop the plan was given to Haliburton County Council. Work on the Cswb began in 2020.

"The goal of Cswb planning is to achieve the ideal state of a sustainable community where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, access to services and where individuals and families can meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income and social and cultural expression," Tiffin said.

To achieve this "ideal" state, the plan provides framework for the alignment with key service providers and allowing for data collection to identify gaps and measure progress.

She dove into how incidents are typically handled.

Communities invest many resources into incident response such as policing, paramedic, and other emergency-driven services, but this is reactive and sometimes enforcement-dominated.

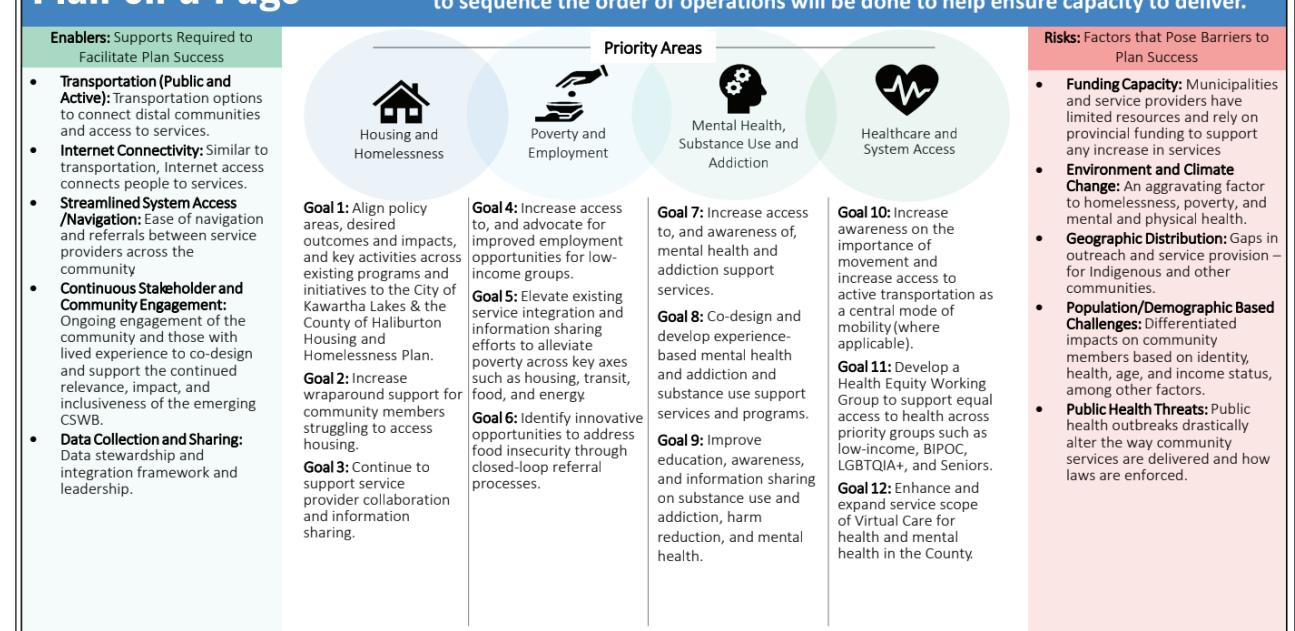
"In most cases, we can't rely on incident response alone to promote community safety and well-being," Tiffin said.

She said to council that communities should be focused on prevention, "Applying proactive strategies to known and identified risks that are likely to result in harm to individuals or communities if left unmitigated."

This means stopping incidents before they have a chance to need emergency intervention.

She showed a graphic of a river. While incident response pulls people out of the river, it doesn't address why they fell

## Plan-on-a-Page



The main priority areas in Haliburton County's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan are housing and homelessness, poverty and employment, mental health, substance use and addiction, and healthcare and system access. /Submitted

in. Intervention means stopping someone from falling in the river in the first place.

"Ultimately, the goal is to reduce the need for expensive incident response by addressing underlying issues," Tiffin said.

This would take pressure off of strained emergency services.

As a true community project, once our four priorities in the county were addressed, the advisory table worked to connect with local groups already focused on those issues.

"These could be groups that already exist, whose work plans or a piece of their work plan aligns with our goals and strategies, or it could be a new group developed, but the idea is not to create a new group if a group already exists, as we want to avoid duplication," Tiffin said.

Since the Cswb plan is a living document, the next steps for Tiffin have been to find ways to make the community aware of the plan.

One is an online youth art exhibition in collaboration with Rails End Gallery, Limbic Collective, and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students and will launch on May 31.

"It's an online art exhibition inviting area youth ages 12 to 24 to express their thoughts on Haliburton County's Cswb Plan priorities," she said.

The online exhibition will live on Rails End Gallery's website and be curated by members of the Limbic Art

Collective.

The county will also be recognizing First Responders' Day at an open house across the Highlands.

On May 1, "Residents of all ages are invited to visit bases, halls and stations throughout Haliburton County from 4 – 6 p.m. for a variety of activities. Members of the public will be able to meet emergency personnel, learn more about programs and services offered, hear about volunteer and career opportunities, understand how to prepare for emergencies, and get an up-close look at emergency equipment and vehicles."

The tangible next steps were what county councillors were particularly excited about.

To view the full Cswb Plan page, visit [www.haliburtoncounty.ca/en/living-here/community-safety-well-being.aspx](http://www.haliburtoncounty.ca/en/living-here/community-safety-well-being.aspx).

"This is an awful lot like the old adage of 'How do you eat an elephant?' There's so much going on, and this is so large, and I think we just have to look and break it down into all of its components and get the many people who are working on various segments or various parts of these issues to work together and to make this a safer community and a community that has, as you say, improved well-being," said Councillor Bob Carter at the end of Tiffin's presentation. "I guess we just have to roll up our sleeves and get to it."

# Here we go again

**S**HORTLY AFTER the Red Cross gave up management of the Minden Hospital in the early 80's, the community found itself fighting hard to protect its health care infrastructure. There were attempts to close the in-patient beds, reduce and eventually eliminate the emergency department. The Minden hospital had been under siege for a number of years.

Following the creation of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services, a compromise of sorts was reached in which a 24 hour emergency service and walk in clinic, with a number of holding beds and space for a variety of health services and doctors' offices, were built into the old Hyland Crest wing after the new expanded long term care facility was completed with 92 beds.

That was the status quo until a week ago, when HHHS announced the closure of the Minden Emergency Department effective June 1, a little more than five weeks from this date. The announcement came as a shock to those who looked to the Minden complex as a valuable health care facility. Sure, there has been talk of the difficulties staffing the two emergency departments and hints that one of them may be eliminated, but the organization had been through this before and always managed to find a solution. One gets the feeling that HHHS simply just gave up trying to be creative and took the easy way out and decided to simply shut it down.

Now there are many reasons the Minden Emergency Department should remain open. Here are but a few that come to mind:

The fact that in a recent count the Minden emergency department had 3000 more patient visits in a year than the Haliburton facility.

The fact that June 1 is right on the cusp of the hospitals' busiest time of the year as seasonal residents return, tourists make this area a destination and children's camps swell with thousands of young people and staff.

The fact that the Minden emerge serves a broad population south to Coboconk and Burnt River and north to Dorset, and residents along the highway 35 corridor, the busiest highway in the county.

The fact that there are many patients without a family doctor who use the facility to meet their medical needs year-round.

The fact that with all the best laid plans there is no way the Haliburton emergency department is going to be prepared in such a short time to absorb the patients who can no longer be treated in Minden.... and even if the facilities are available, additional staff, likely recruited from Minden, will be required. HHHS could save the cost of those renovations and the crowding by keeping the Minden service open and the staff on the job.

That fact that ... well there are many more reasons. Too many to list. But I want to comment on one more ...

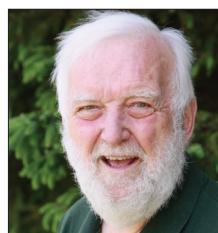
Staffing appears to be a major reason the decision has been taken. We all appreciate the effort that medical and support staff, at all levels, have made through the pandemic and beyond. We have witnessed closures in other communities because of a lack of qualified staff. The Minden facility has been

fortunate to be well served by a rotation of doctors from nearby communities who are in the emergency department 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round. It has been that way since before the department moved from the old hospital to the new location some 40 years ago. However, I am also aware of at least two Registered Nurses who have applied to HHHS in the past year, one who submitted three separate applications, who haven't had the courtesy of a reply. One would think, if it was a lack of nurses causing this crisis, these applicants

would have been pursued and put on the staff roster as quickly as possible.

Six weeks is hardly long enough to absorb and respond to the decision. At this point it makes sense to push that deadline back to the end of the year, or right off the calendar altogether.

People in the Minden hospital catchment have faced challenges to their medical infrastructure in the past. I suspect they will rise to the occasion once again.



**JACK BREZINA**

*Point of View*



**FLEMING**

CREW Employment Centre

## Springing into new opportunities

Fleming CREW Employment Centre hosted a Spring Job Fair on Wednesday, April 19 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton where attendees had the chance to meet over 35 employers in the county looking to hire for casual, full-time, and part-time positions.

/TIM YANO Special to the Times

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# First Responders Day to be recognized throughout county

by SUE TIFFIN  
*Special to the Times*

They run toward danger rather than away from it, jump up from the dinner table on holiday weekends when there's a need for assistance and respond to traumatic events to help their friends and neighbours at their greatest time of need.

On May 1, First Responders Day, those who dedicate their lives to public service throughout the province are recognized for their commitment to protecting their community and keeping residents safe. This year on May 1, members of Haliburton County paramedic services, municipal fire departments and the Haliburton Highlands OPP have collectively come together to invite the public to a Haliburton County Community Open House to learn more about the critical role both professional and volunteer emergency responders have in keeping our communities safe.

Residents of all ages are invited to visit bases, halls and stations throughout Haliburton County on Monday from 4 to 6 p.m. for a variety of activities. Members of the public will be able to meet emergency personnel, learn more about programs and services offered, hear about volunteer and career opportunities, understand how to prepare for emergencies, and get an up-close look at emergency equipment and vehicles. (Activities vary at



each participating location).

Steve Prins started off as a lifeguard, solidifying both his passion for helping others, and wanting to make a career of it. Someone suggested paramedicine to him as being a good fit, and Prins has now served as a primary care paramedic for just more than a decade.

"I really appreciate how different every situation is, it's very dynamic and it's always changing," he said. "I really enjoyed that, and the training that comes along with it. Just at the end of the day, when someone is already not having a great day and you can be a part of making that day better, I enjoy that. I find satisfaction in that."

Prins said that living and serving in a rural community means oftentimes he's recognized by those in need when he shows up to help.

"I've really enjoyed serving my local community," he said. "A lot of the people, the calls around here, they're people that I know or that I'm familiar with at this point, which I think makes a big difference for them, too. When you're able to show up, and someone goes, 'Oh, thank goodness it's you,' - that's a big responsibility and it's not one to be taken lightly."

He notes the service is vital, and that his fellow paramedic colleagues are dedicated to their work.

"They hold things close to their hearts when it comes to serving their community," he said. "It's tough for them to sometimes separate that, but a lot of them work really hard at it, and I know they put 100 per cent effort into trying to make this a better service in our community."

Sarah Alexander is a provincial constable with the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment.

"I choose to serve as a police officer because I wanted to be able to help the community I live in," she said of her interest in becoming a first responder.

Alexander manages the OPP auxiliary program out of the Minden office, supporting community members who volunteer to help support police officers at community events, RIDE initiatives, with traffic control and emergency and disaster response.

Two years in, Alexander said she enjoys the role, including the opportunity to interact with the public.

"The residents in the community are more than welcoming to officers and ensure that we feel valued," she said. "The County I both work and live in is beautiful and really makes me appreciate my career choice and where I serve."

Paisley Shannon has been a licensed paramedic for about four years now, two of those years have been serving in Haliburton County.

"I wanted a job that offered me a different day every day," she said. "I couldn't do

Haliburton County Paramedic Services, together with Haliburton Highlands OPP and municipal fire departments throughout the county are inviting the public to an open house event to meet emergency personnel, learn more about programs and services offered, hear about volunteer and career opportunities, understand how to prepare for emergencies, and get an up-close look at emergency equipment and vehicles. /Photo submitted

a desk job. You never know what is going to happen each shift, you have high adrenaline pumping calls – I like the fact that I'm there to help people on their worst days, I like being there for someone regardless of what they are calling for and just bringing a smile or reassurance to someone or their family members."

Shannon also works often with the Community Paramedicine program.

"It allows people in the community to stay at home and have a medical professional come to them and do an assessment and answer any questions. The program helps decrease the 911 calls and decrease the need for people to go and see their doctor. We are also advancing our scope of skills and we will soon be able to do urine analysis and point-of-care testing, along with being able to give antibiotics for clients."

Shannon said being a first responder in Haliburton County is unique.

"It offers the luxury of working a slower service so you are not doing 10 to 12 calls a day," she said. "With a slower service, it allows people to start and retire in the same service - the burnout rate is very low. It's a smaller service which allows the medics to be closer, and it feels like a family here."

She noted the increase in population size during the summer months increases call volume, and the rural "cottage country" experience means first responders see calls that more urban paramedics might not – including snowmobile and ATV accidents.

"We also have unique calls that allow medics to think outside of the box," she said. "We have calls that occur on islands, and we are needed to be boated to the scene and work together as a team to treat and extricate patients. We have a lot of forest and trails, so extricating patients can be challenging and requires us to work alongside fire and Ornge quite a bit, which is a unique and fun experience."

Phil Dulong joined Algonquin Highlands Fire Services last year, but had always wanted to help. After retiring from his full-time teaching career, he knew he had the time to participate.

"The hardest part was to get them to stop calling me Mr. Dulong, they even put the label on my locker," he laughed, explaining he was working alongside former students.

While he noted he's not a "spring chicken," and was the oldest recruit in the program, he appreciates the different roles available.

"I'll take whatever role, whatever I can do to help – I don't have to be in front," he said. He said younger colleagues are often "just itching to get in there," and also acknowledged the work of firefighters older than him taking on a secondary role.

"I really come to appreciate them backing up the team that goes out first," he said. "They look out for what you need, and it's really nice to have them backing up – I'll be

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### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

## SUDOKU

	2		4	3				
		2	5	6				
8					7			
3	8		9			5		
		3					8	
								8
	5		8				2	
								4
		5						
1	6	4						9

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 13

see CELEBRATING page 15

# Celebrating our local heroes

from page 14

one of them in a few years."

Dulong said the support he's received from all of his colleagues has been exceptional, especially when victims have not survived despite all efforts.

"Everyone really looked out for me, they were all calling me," he said, of the team's care. "They're such a nice bunch of people. They really look out for you there."

He encouraged others to get involved, noting how rewarding his time serving the community has been.

"No one's in it for the money or the glory, everyone is there to help others," he said. "I just love being in that environment."

The First Responders Day event will provide an opportunity for residents to have face-to-face time with first responders, and also learn about programs and services available or in place throughout the community, including the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team – a specialized crisis service offered through CMHA-HKPR that provides access to mental health support for police calls to service, the Community Paramedicine program offered through Haliburton County Paramedic Services and burning permit programs available through local fire departments.

The month of May also marks National Physicians' Day, National Nurses Week, National Police Week and Emergency Preparedness Week. This year, Emergency Preparedness Week is May 7 to 13.

First Responders remind the public to prepare for potential emergencies, which in Haliburton County most frequently include windstorms, snowstorms, infectious disease outbreaks, communication system failures, electrical energy failures,

floods and extreme cold.

Residents exploring nature and outdoor opportunities in the area should ensure their cellphone is fully charged prior to leaving the house, and download the What3Words app to help first responders pinpoint their location if in need of help.

Canadians are encouraged to have a minimum of 72 hours of personal preparedness supplies in the event of an emergency in your area.

"Being adequately prepared will give you piece of mind that you are able to support yourself, your loved ones and your pets," said Katie Gibbs of Emergency Management Ontario. "Become familiar with the hazards which may impact where you live, and consider supplies to be able to remain in your home without such things as power for an extended duration. Also consider a bag that has some basic personal supplies and key items such as photocopies of identification, extra prescriptions and emergency contact numbers should you be required to leave your home quickly because of an emergency."

To learn more about emergency preparedness in your community, visit <https://www.haliburtoncounty.ca/en/living-here/emergency-preparation.aspx> or ask a first responder for more details at the Haliburton County Community Open House on First Responders Day.

**Primary care paramedic Steve Prins** said he enjoys serving his local community as a first responder. "Just at the end of the day, when someone is already not having a great day and you can be a part of making that day better, I enjoy that." /Photo submitted



## Burn permits required for daytime burning

The Township would like to remind the public that Fire Season is April 1st to October 31st each year. During this period, a Burn Permit is required for daytime burning between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, and a Fireworks Permit is required for the use or discharge of Fireworks.

If you wish to burn during the day, or use/discharge Fireworks, you must apply for a Burn Permit or a Fireworks Permit. Permit Applications are available online at the Township of Minden Hills website at <https://www.minden-hills.ca/burn/fireworks/permits/>, in person at the Minden Hills Fire Hall, located at 12418 Hwy 35 Minden ON, or the Township Administration office, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON. Please contact the Fire Department at 705-286-1202.

Permits are issued by the Minden Hills Fire Department. Burn Permits are valid for the entire season and Fireworks Permits are valid only for the date they are approved for. In the event of a Fire Ban or other Fire Restriction, all Burn or Fireworks Permits are suspended until further notice by the Township.

A total ban against outdoor burning and fireworks may be declared when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances warrant it. It is your responsibility to be aware of fire bans. You may view the fire meter on the home page of the Township's website at [www.minden-hills.ca](http://www.minden-hills.ca) for updates.

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

5	1	2	8	7	4	3	9	6
7	3	9	2	5	6	8	4	1
8	4	6	9	1	3	7	2	5
3	2	8	6	9	1	4	5	7
4	7	1	3	2	5	9	6	8
6	9	5	4	8	7	1	3	2
9	5	3	1	6	8	2	7	4
2	8	7	5	4	9	6	1	3
1	6	4	7	3	2	5	8	9

Bylaw #20-104 - Open Air Burning Bylaw, sets out the requirements for burning and fireworks use in the municipality. Approved materials include piled wood, brush, leaves or discarded wood products. Burning of garbage and waste is prohibited. Please refer to the Open Air Burning Bylaw, available online at the Township of Minden Hills website - [www.minden-hills.ca](http://www.minden-hills.ca) for more information.

The following rules apply to all fires, regardless of time of day or permit:

- a) A responsible person is available and in attendance at all times until the fire is completely extinguished;
- b) The fire is on the property listed;
- c) The material is burned in a single pile that is less than two (2) metres in diameter and less than two (2) metres high, unless it is approved, in writing by the Chief Fire Official or designate;
- d) Fire must be located a safe distance (3 metres minimum) from combustible materials, property line, buildings, fences, trees (including overhead) and roadway;

- e) Only burn wood or by-products of wood;
- f) Not burn noxious or restricted waste materials;
- g) The person tending the fire has tools and/or extinguishing agent adequate to contain and completely the fire; and
- h) The fire is completely extinguished before the burn site is vacated.

A reminder that anyone setting, maintaining or allowing to be set or maintained, an open air fire or fireworks is responsible for any damage to property or injury to persons and is liable for all costs incurred by the Fire Department. Contravention of these restrictions will result in fines as set out in the Township's Comprehensive Fees and Charges Bylaw.

Please visit [www.minden-hills.ca](http://www.minden-hills.ca) for accurate updates. The Minden Hills Fire Department will continue to monitor for fire hazards and post updates, as required. Information on fire intensity codes and wildfires can be found at [www.ontario.ca](http://www.ontario.ca).

Submitted

## Youth hub widens reach

The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub has had another big year of growth in terms of visitors, staff, and activities.

The number of youth drop-in visitors alone for the last fiscal year was 1,439, the highest number recorded since the Hub was founded, and nearly twice the drop-in count for last year. This number does not include the number of structured community and social support services, which are forthcoming from Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario.

The number of staff employed at the Hub has also grown – from three in 2019 to nine in 2023.

The Youth Hub is a staffed, safe place for any youth in the County aged 12 to 25. Youth can drop in to socialize, do homework, engage in activities, or talk to staff about something they may need help with.

The Youth Hub hosted a number of unique events in the last year, including the N(ART)ure art project that resulted in painted murals for the Hub's walls; exam break drop-ins; Dungeons & Dragons sessions; paint nights; pizza days; skating days; candlemaking from Indigenously Infused; seed planting workshops; financial literacy sessions with John Howard Society; trivia nights; Predator Prowl with Yours Outdoors; and a new drop-in time for youth aged 12 to 15 on Fridays. Mobile share and care services to all the municipalities also continue, and an Indigenous outreach worker provides indigenous teachings and supports in a culturally safe

environment, both virtually and in person at the Youth Hub.

The Hub also offers social and community services to youth needing more structured supports. Quarterly satisfaction surveys for youth receiving services have consistently shown that the vast majority of youth indicate high satisfaction with services offered; that they felt the services received were the right way of helping them, and that they would recommend the services to others.

"The Youth Hub is bursting at the seams," said Marg Cox, executive director of Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents. "We're needing to do some real planning for expansion in the near future, as we seem to be outgrowing our current building with regard to office space, and recreational space for youth," she said.

The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub is a one-stop shop for youth services and supports and is co-created with youth, for youth. It is part of a province-wide network of Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario and is affiliated with Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents. To find out more about the Haliburton Youth Hub, email [haliburtonhub@pointintime.ca](mailto:haliburtonhub@pointintime.ca) or call the office at (705) 457-2727. Follow updates and events on Instagram at @HaliCountyYouthhub.

Submitted by Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents



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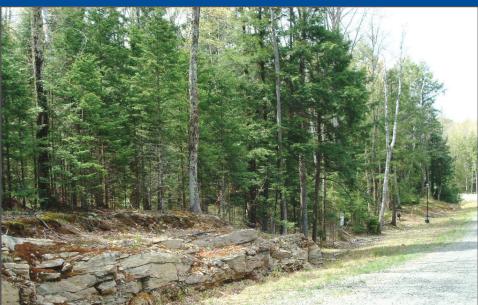
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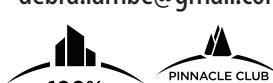
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## Minden Times

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**540 COMING EVENTS**

**NORWOOD COUNTRY JAMBOREE** July 20 - July 23 at the Norwood Fairgrounds Call for tickets 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097 or Bill Bekkers 705-448-8814 [www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com](http://www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com)

**540 COMING EVENTS**

**HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS WOMEN'S GOLF LEAGUE** is hosting its ICEBREAKER TEE SOCIAL NIGHT at the Haliburton Curling Club on Friday May 5 7:00 pm. Come enjoy and register All level players welcome For more info visit the website [www.hhwgl.ca](http://www.hhwgl.ca) or call Lynne Brady 705-887-4230 or 705-340-0625

**570 NOTICES**

**Private notice:** let it be known an unrebutted ecclesiastical agreement with witnesses has been reached between minister Surinder-Kaur and the private man David Lametti acting as AG of Canada. The full text of the scriptural agreement may be seen at <http://www.allcreatorsgifts.blogspot.com>

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*The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times are seeking a Summer Reporter/Photographer to join our award-winning newspapers in the heart of Ontario's cottage country.*

**Responsibilities will include:**

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- feature writing
- photography
- searching out story ideas

**The successful candidate must have access to their own transportation.**

*Interested candidates should forward their resume with writing and photography samples to Editors, Vivian Collings or Emily Stonehouse by Friday, May 5, 2023*

**Vivian Collings** [vivian@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:vivian@haliburtonpress.com)  
or

**Emily Stonehouse** [emily@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:emily@haliburtonpress.com)

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**Job Posting****Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub  
Programming and Peer Support****Full time/Contract**

Under the direction of the Youth Wellness Hub Manager and alongside a coordinated service team, the Programming and Peer Support Worker will provide support to youth who access services and recreation at the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub. They will assist with program and activity coordination and facilitation and will support in creating a safe and accepting environment for youth (12-25). They will also have the role of Driver and provide transportation to youth accessing services and wellness activities at the Hub. Services include, but are not limited to, mental health, addictions, employment, housing, primary care and outreach, 2SLGBTQ+ supports and Indigenous peer support. As well as harm reduction supports.

**Responsibilities and Qualifications:**

Facilitate and support Youth Advisory Committee and Youth Engagement activities; Plan and facilitate activities at the Hub and in the community; Good communication/interpersonal skills; Education or volunteer/work experience in social services or related field; Knowledge of anti-oppression and inclusion including knowledge of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and creating positive spaces is an asset; Knowledge or experience with Canva design program; Strong driving skills and a clean record; First Aid training; Vulnerable Sector Check required; Ability to work evenings and weekends.

For full job description, please visit [www.pointintime.ca](http://www.pointintime.ca).

Please send cover letter and resume by April 28, 2023  
to [HR@pointintime.ca](mailto:HR@pointintime.ca) or drop off/mail to:  
Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth & Parents  
PO Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0

*Point in Time is committed to building an organization that reflects the communities we work with. We encourage applications from members of Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with disabilities, and members of other equity seeking groups. Point in Time will provide accommodation during the recruitment process to ensure equal access to applicants with disabilities, upon the request of the applicant.*

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Interested applicants should express their enthusiasm and forward their resume in confidence by 6pm Monday, May 1, 2023 to

**Melanie Klodt Wong, HHHS Foundation  
Executive Director, [mklodtwong@hhhs.ca](mailto:mklodtwong@hhhs.ca)**

**For further information on the Foundation,  
please visit [www.hhhs.ca/foundation](http://www.hhhs.ca/foundation)**

\* Position is contingent on Canada Summer Jobs



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**Maintenance Manager: Full time**

The Camp Maintenance Manager is responsible for overseeing and directing the maintenance team at our residential summer camp, under the guidance and supervision of the Facilities Director. This person will ensure the camp's facilities, grounds, and equipment are kept in good condition and safe for campers and staff to use. The Manager works closely with the Facilities Director and other members of the team to plan and execute maintenance projects and manage the daily operations of the maintenance team. For more information about our camp, visit [www.campnbb.com](http://www.campnbb.com)

**Key responsibilities include, but are not limited to:**

- Hire, train and supervise the maintenance staff to ensure that all work is completed to a high standard and in a timely manner.
- Direct the maintenance and repair of camp's facilities, equipment and electrical and mechanical systems
- Coordinate and participate in all cleaning, sweeping, mopping and sanitizing all camp buildings, camp garbage collection and disposal, building/carpentry, repairing, landscaping, and painting.
- Develop and implement schedules and procedures for safety inspections and preventive maintenance programs.
- Conduct routine inspections of camp facilities, equipment, and grounds to identify areas in need of repair or maintenance.
- Coordinate and oversee the repair or replacement of damaged equipment and facilities as necessary.
- Manage the inventory of maintenance supplies and materials, and order new supplies as needed.

Expected Start date: Spring 2023

Previous supervisory experience in maintenance, landscaping, or related field an asset. Candidates will be trained on-site and must enjoy working outside in a team-oriented, collaborative environment. Candidates can expect to work approx 35-45 hours per week. Must be willing to complete all government related certifications, including WHIMS.

Salary: \$40,000-\$65,000, based on experience

To apply, or for more information, please submit resume and application letter to [Simon@campnbb.com](mailto:Simon@campnbb.com)

**Housekeeping/Maintenance Staff - Full time  
- Seasonal or Long term contracts available**

Camp Northland is a residential summer camp located in the beautiful Haliburton Highlands, for children aged 7-16. We are looking to hire candidates to join our Housekeeping/Maintenance team, with opportunities to live on or off-site. For more information about our camp, visit [www.campnbb.com](http://www.campnbb.com)

Regular day-to-day work can include, but is not limited to, cleaning, sweeping, mopping and sanitizing all camp buildings, camp garbage collection and disposal, building/carpentry, repairing, landscaping, and painting.

Expected Start date: Spring 2023

Previous experience in maintenance, landscaping, or related field an asset. Candidates will be trained on-site and must enjoy working outside in a team-oriented, collaborative environment. Candidates can expect to work approx 35-40 hours per week. Must be willing to complete all government related certifications, including WHIMS.

Salary: \$15.50-\$19.50 per hour, based on experience

To apply, please submit resume and application letter to [Rob@campnbb.com](mailto:Rob@campnbb.com)



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# Minden Times Classifieds

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**Looking for contractor to perform summer maintenance and winter plowing/sanding** on 2 km of private road 10 minutes outside of Haliburton. Contact Glenn Tordoff gtordoff@gmail.com or 905-767-5680

**Several Positions needed**

- General Help (Hourly Rate \$25-\$30)
- Picking up lumber, yard work, able to work safely. PLUS looking for 2 cabinet makers (Hourly Rate\$30-\$35) able to read blueprints and have own tools.

Please contact by email kenpridecustom@hotmail.com or call 647 293-7280

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If you are interested please contact us by email attach your resume and indicate which position you are interested in [info@bonnieviewinn.com](mailto:info@bonnieviewinn.com)

We will reply with detailed information and schedule an interview.

**Several Positions needed**

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**Looking for contractor to perform summer maintenance and winter**

**plowing/sanding** on 2 km of private road 10 minutes outside of Haliburton. Contact Glenn Tordoff gtordoff@gmail.com or 905-767-5680

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## HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### The Haliburton County Public Library

#### Requires

#### Two (2) Student Maker & Technology Program Assistants

If you are a student pursuing post-secondary education in the fields of library science, education, or technology, Haliburton County Public Library is looking forward to giving you the opportunity to gain hands-on experience through our Student Maker & Technology Program Assistant position.

Successful candidates will gain experience by planning and carrying out an 8-week summer maker program in a public library environment. Applicants must possess a G driver's licence and be able to work independently as well as in a diverse team. A Vulnerable Sector police check will be required for successful candidates.

The hourly rate of pay for this position is \$20.00, 35 hours per week from May 15th – August 26, 2023.

Visit our website at [www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers](http://www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers) for a more detailed posting and instructions on how to apply. Please apply no later than April 28, 2023, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Haliburton County Public Library is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.



## The Royal Canadian Legion Minden Branch 636

The Royal Canadian Legion Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden is looking for a Part-Time Cook. A Food Handler Certificate is an asset but not an additional requirement if you take the course later.

Resume may be left at the bar, emailed to [rclbranch636@hotmail.com](mailto:rclbranch636@hotmail.com) or mailed to:

The Royal Canadian Legion  
PO Box 238, Minden ON, K0M 2K0

**Night Patrol****Onondaga Camp, Minden**

seeks contract (May-June, September)

**\$25/hr**

We are looking for a Night Patrol staff to supervise Camp during the evenings. Hours are from 10 pm – 6 am. Onondaga offers Night Patrol to outdoor education groups who require it when they have students on site. A Clean Criminal Record Check is required. Responsibilities include supervision of site through routine patrol, supervision of clients, collection and logging of nightly occurrences, clear communication with staff, faculty, and students. The Night Patrol will identify any issues throughout the evening; immediately notify Onondaga Staff and Faculty to ensure the safety of students, staff and site.

This is NOT a full time position  
Shifts and weekly hours vary  
NO ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED

*To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, we have modified our normal operating policies in response to COVID-19.*

*If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at [matt@onondagacamp.com](mailto:matt@onondagacamp.com). Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)*

*A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.*



**Camp Timberlane** is a co-ed residential summer camp for campers aged 6 – 16 and is looking to hire candidates to join our onsite Housekeeping team. For more information about the camp, visit us at [www.Camptimberlane.ca](http://www.Camptimberlane.ca)

### Housekeeping/Laundry - Full Time, Temporary, Contract

*Three positions available*

Our Housekeeping and Laundry areas are managed with teams split between Housekeeping and Laundry.

**Responsibilities include:** cleaning of all buildings, accommodations, washrooms, shower facilities and common areas throughout the camp, including the turnover of living space throughout camp and overall upkeep of camp facilities. Cleaning and light maintenance duties include, but not limited to sweeping, mopping, cleaning, painting and replenishing supplies needed for showers and washrooms.

#### Expected Start date: Immediately

Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment. Salary: Housekeeping \$17.50 - \$19.50 per hour based on experience..

Submit resume by email to [Jay@camptimberlane.ca](mailto:Jay@camptimberlane.ca)

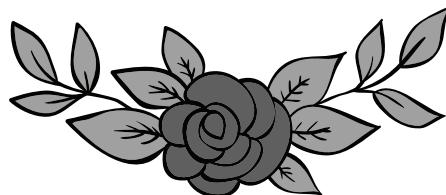
# Minden Times Classifieds

Call 705-286-1288 [classifieds@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:classifieds@haliburtonpress.com) Deadline 4 pm Each Monday**600 FUNERAL SERVICES**

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**650 OBITUARIES**

It is with deep sorrow and much love that the family of

**A. Lloyd Murphy**announce his peaceful passing at the Royal Victoria  
Regional Health Center on Monday, April 10th, 2023,  
at the age of 92

Beloved husband of the late Doreen (née Daglish)(d. May 2022). Much loved Dad to Diane (Roy Mandeville), Janet (Allan Robertson) and Ted (Laurie).

Treasured grandpa to Jim (Kate), Brian (Heather), Katie, Julia (Kevin van Ravenswaaij) and Nick (Jesca). Dear great-grandpa to Emily, Liam, Sophia, Madison and Levi. Predeceased by his 5 older sisters Vera, Myrtle, Muriel, Marion and Shirley. Missed and loved by his brother-in-law Dr. Tom Daglish (Nancy) of California. Special uncle and great-uncle to many nieces and nephews. Also left to mourn him is long-time family friend Ruth Keffer and all Lloyd's Masonic Brethren and Shriners.

Lloyd and Doreen were long-time residents of Richmond Hill where they raised their family, and he was very involved in the Masonic Lodge and the Shriners. Beginning in the early 60's summer holidays were spent on Little Boshkung Lake where he cleared the lot, and designed and built the family cottage. Lloyd cherished his time at the lake and loved doing odd jobs in and around the cottage or helping a neighbour clear land, build a cottage or dock, or thin out the trees. During his retirement Lloyd loved driving their motorhome to Florida for their winter stays as well as other shorter trips closer to home in the spring and fall. In 2001, when Richmond Hill got too big and busy, Lloyd and Doreen moved to Barrie, a little closer to the cottage. Lloyd moved into Amica Retirement Home in December, 2021 and thoroughly loved his time there. Many thanks to the Amica staff for making his last 16 months so enjoyable and taking such good care of him.

As per Lloyd's wishes, cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to Adams Funeral Home, 445 St. Vincent St., Barrie (705-728-4344). Lloyd requested a private Masonic Service followed by a Graveside Service for family and friends at Alliston Union Cemetery beginning at 12pm, Saturday, May 6, 2023. A reception and memory sharing will follow at the New Tecumseth Recreation Ctr., 7300 Industrial Parkway, Alliston.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

## Halibuton Echo & Minden Times Online Advertising

**Ask about our Multi-Market Discount**

Online marketing campaigns are a must in 2023.

- Haliburton Echo and Minden Times websites receive a combined 60,000 hits a month
- Breaking news updated throughout the week
- Listed first on Google when "Haliburton news" and "Minden news" searched
- **705-854-0294 for Multi Market Discounts**



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# The Times

Minden

**Preserve Wildlife Party at The World Famous Rockcliffe Tavern**

Monday, May 1, 1989

**Highlights**

**Records fall**  
Records were tumbling all around the grounds last Tuesday during the track and field meet at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. In all, 10 records were shattered.  
Please see page 7.

**No grants**  
The Ministry of Education has finalized its list of school boards to get capital grants in the next three years and Haliburton is not included.  
Please see page 9.

**Spring**  
When people think of the Highlands, they usually think of the traditional summer and winter activities. However, many are aware that spring can be one of the most enjoyable seasons in these parts.  
Please see page 13.

**Bob Vick**  
The man who sat at the helm in Snowdon Township for more than two decades will be honoured by friends and neighbours.  
Please see page 17.

**Kids' safety**  
Haliburton schools will begin teaching a personal safety program this fall to help children deal with physical and sexual abuse.  
Please see page 23.

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Opinion/letters ... pg. 5  
Arthur Black ..... pg. 4  
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Classified...pgs. 32-35

**School taxes jump 15.7%**

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

The Haliburton County Board of Education has passed its 1989 budget leading to a 15.7 per cent increase in the amount raised through local property taxes. The budget itself only grew by 9.8 per cent but, because provincial grants did not increase in proportion to the growth of the board, the money will have to be raised locally. The province increased its contribution to the board's budget by only \$31,360, less than a one per cent increase over last year's grant.

The total board expenditures expected for 1989 are \$11,866,977. Of that 34 per cent is contributed by the province and 65 per cent is raised by the municipalities through property taxes. Last year the province contributed 37 per cent of the board's budget.

The board's Business Administrator, Jim Bradley, said his original proposed budget called for an expenditure increase of 12 per cent over 1988 but the board wanted to keep the increase below 10 per cent. In order to trim the budget, Bradley calculated how much money would have to come off each school's list of expenditures and let the principals decide where the cuts in their schools should be made.

In structure, very little has changed from last year's budget. Salaries and benefits still account for about 68 per cent of the expenditures, transportation accounts for 11 per cent, and 12.8 per cent is spent on supplies. The remaining seven per cent is spent on tuition fees, repairs and alterations, capital costs, and debt charges.

(more on page 10)

(more on page 20)

It was an active day at Queen's Park last Tuesday as Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander gave the Speech from the Throne. Minden Reeve Ray Moore was at Queen's Park as a guest of Victoria-Haliburton MPP John Eakins to hear the speech and attend a reception afterwards. Other guests from Victoria and Haliburton Counties included Lutterworth Reeve Carol Puffer, Somerville Reeve Bryce Young and Victoria County Warden Dennis Sweeting. Seen here, Moore is greeted by the Lieutenant Governor during the reception. Seen in the background is Warden Sweeting.

## Amalgamation is inevitable

Eakins calls for input in county government revision

Haliburton County will see some dramatic changes in the next five years if, as expected, the Minister of Municipal Affairs adopts most of the 41 recommendations from the most recent report on County Government in Ontario. Because of the potential change that could result if these recommendations are adopted, Municipal Affairs Minister John Eakins is inviting comment from county councillors, municipal councillors and the public. "I want to hear your views on this report by July 14," Eakins told a gathering of county wardens on April 20. "If you can think of better solutions than those proposed by the committee, please tell me about them."

Eakins expects that some of the recommendations in the report will spark controversy. He may be in for a surprise, though, since the recommendations themselves were derived from comments made by county and municipal councillors.

The report was called for after an earlier report by an advisory committee came out with recommendations to overhaul the 140-year-old system of government. The Consultation Committee was formed to tour the province meeting with members of the 26 county councils and other interested parties and report back to the minister.

Still, though, there is bound to be some controversy arising from the recommendations that will ultimately lead to amalgamation of the smaller townships in the Highlands to form larger, more efficient municipalities.

One recommendation in this report suggests that the minimum population base for a municipality to support efficient cost-effective services should be 4,000. Since Haliburton County has a population of about 12,000, that recommendation, if endorsed, would reduce the number of municipalities in Haliburton from 10 to three. Eakins, himself, has admitted that this recommendation may not be workable in all cases. To remedy this, a second recommendation suggests that some municipalities be allowed to have a population base of less than 4,000 if the population density, geographic isolation, nature of the economy or natural location of a service area warrant a smaller size.

Regardless of this secondary recommendation, Haliburton County is bound to see a significant reduction in the number of municipalities. How those amalgamations will be made is ultimately up to the local politicians.

Recommendation number 27 in this report suggests that a study be undertaken in each county in order to consider reorganization of the county structure in line with the directions outlined in the Government Policy Statement. These further studies to be undertaken by the counties will recognize the unique nature of each county and produce recommendations tailored to fit the circumstances of each area.

The Consultation Committee has recommended that

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- Large Balcony w/ Entertainment Space/Views
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Tom Ecclestone\*  
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Melanie Hevesi\*  
854-1000

**NEW LISTING**

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- 109 acres of unspoiled Haliburton landscape
- Overlooks Percy Lake, 4100ft of Municipal Road Frtg
- Approximately 30 minutes to Haliburton





Andrew Hodgson\*\*  
286-2138 x 229

**SOLD**

**Haliburton by the Lake**

- 4,000+ Sq Ft family home w/ 2-car garage
- Open concept with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths
- Well-maintained with beautiful gardens
- Boat slip & waterfront park on 5-lake chain





Susanne James\* & Andy Mosher\*\*  
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**West Guilford Lot \$119,900**

- Lovely 1-acre lot, 5 min drive to West G Store
- Driveway roughed in, 15 Mins to Haliburton
- Dozens of Lakes Nearby, Close Drive to Haliburton Forest





Ashley McKeigue  
705-854-1833

**Oblong Lake \$599,000**

- 0.9-acre parcel with north-western exposure
- Over 700 feet of clean, sand & rock frontage
- Driveway installed & building site partially cleared
- Part of a 2-lake chain with premium Haliburton Lake





Brandon Nimigon\*\*\*  
457-2128 x 127

**NEW PRICE**

**Loop Road \$547,000**

- 5 Beds / 3 Bath Home on 10+ Acres!
- Many Recent Upgrades, Attached Garage
- Perennial Gardens, Spacious Wraparound Deck
- Public Beach & Amenities Just Minutes Away





Karen Nimigon\*\*  
457-6505

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Kelly Kay\*  
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705-854-1454

**Sunnyside St \$849,000**

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- Double attached garage, full basement, Tarion warranty
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Darlene Reil\*  
447-2055

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**Haliburton Lake \$1,199,900**

- 3 Beds / 2 Baths, 1300+ sqft
- Southeastern Exposure, 100' of Frtg
- Large Bunkie w/ Infrared Sauna
- 20 Mins to Haliburton, 10 Mins to Fort Irwin





Melanie Vigrass\*  
286-2138 x 232

**Bethel Road \$549,000**

- Incredible 194-acre parcel just mins from Minden
- Long gated driveway to private, cleared site
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- Trails throughout to explore, teaming with wildlife





Lindsay Wilkinson\*  
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